

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body comprising at least one closable ballast tank; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body ~~from~~ below the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel, the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suspended from substantially opposite sides of the vessel.

2. (Original) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein the first stabilizer assembly comprises:

a first submergible at least partially hollow body and a second submergible at least partially hollow body;

first suspending means for suspending the first body from the vessel; and

second suspending means for suspending the second body from the first body.

3. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein the second stabilizer assembly comprises:

a first submergible at least partially hollow body and a second submergible at least partially hollow body;

first suspending means for suspending the first body from the vessel; and

second suspending means for suspending the second body from the first body.

4. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 further comprising a third stabilizer assembly, the third stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body from the vessel.

5. (Original) A vessel according to claim 4 wherein the first stabilizer assembly is suspended near the bow of the vessel on one side, the third stabilizer assembly is suspended near the stern of the vessel on said one side and the second stabilizer assembly is suspended amidships on the other side of the vessel.

6. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 4 wherein the third stabilizer assembly comprises:

a first submergible at least partially hollow body and a second submergible hollow body;

first suspending means for suspending the first body from the vessel; and

second suspending means for suspending the second body from the first body.

7. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 4 further comprising a fourth stabilizer assembly, the fourth stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body from the vessel.

8. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 7 wherein the first stabilizer assembly is suspended near the bow of the vessel on one side, the second stabilizer assembly is suspended near the bow of the vessel on the other side, the third stabilizer assembly is suspended near the stern of the vessel on said one side and the fourth stabilizer assembly is suspended near the stern of the vessel on the other side.

9. (Previously Presented) A vessel according claim 1 wherein the suspending means is capable of bearing high tension loads.

10. (Original) A vessel according to claim 9 wherein the suspending means is capable of bearing tension loads of more than one hundred times the loads it is capable of bearing in compression.

11. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 9 wherein the suspending means comprises elongate flexible members.

12. (Original) A vessel according to claim 11 wherein the elongate flexible members are chains.

13. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each body is of elongate shape and has a cross-sectional area greater than 4 m^2 .

14. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each body comprises one or more closed or closable spaces having a combined volume of more than 50 m^3 .

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein the or each closable ballast tank is separately ballastable.

17. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each stabilizer assembly further comprises at least one fin projecting from the or each body.

18. (Original) A vessel according to claim 17 wherein the at least one fin is pivotable relative to the or each body to restrict movement of the body upwardly through water more than downwardly.

19. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each body is substantially prism shaped.

20. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each body has a round, preferably circular, cross section.

21. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each body has a rectangular cross section.

22. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each body has a square cross section.

23. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein each body has a triangular cross section.

24. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein one or both ends of each body is substantially conical.

25. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1, further comprising one or more saddles for attaching to the vessel, to support the suspending means.

26. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1 wherein the suspending means of the first stabilizer assembly is connected to the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly.

27. (Previously Presented) A vessel according to claim 1, in which only vertical loads are arranged to be transferred from the suspending means to the vessel.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing vessel motion comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body including at least one closable ballast tank; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body ~~from~~ below the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel, the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suitable for locating at substantially opposite portions of the vessel.

29. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body is of elongate shape and has a cross-sectional area greater than 4 m^2 .

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body comprises one or more closed or closable spaces having a combined volume of more than 50 m^3 .

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein the or each closable ballast tank is separately ballastable.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 wherein each stabilizer assembly further comprises at least one fin projecting from the or each body.

34. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the at least one fin is pivotable relative to the or each body to restrict movement of the body through water in one direction more than in another direction.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 wherein each body is substantially prism shaped.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a circular cross section.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a rectangular cross section.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a square cross section.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a triangular cross section.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein one or both ends of each body is substantially conical.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising saddles for attaching to the vessel, to support the suspending means.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 wherein the suspending means of the first stabilizer assembly is connected to the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly.

43. (Previously Presented) A vessel comprising a stabilizing apparatus according to claim 30.

44. (Currently Amended) A submergible body in the form of an at least partially hollow tube, for reducing motion of a water-borne vessel comprising:
at least one closable ballast tank; and
at least one projecting fin for increasing the drag of the body through water.

45. (Original) A body according to claim 44 wherein the body is of elongate shape and has a cross-sectional area greater than 4 m².

46. (Previously Presented) A body according to claim 44 wherein each body comprises one or more closed or closable spaces having a combined volume of more than 50 m³.

47. (Currently Amended) A body according to claim 44 wherein the body comprises a plurality of closable ballast tanks, each separately ballastable.

48. (Previously Presented) A body according to claim 44 wherein the tube has a round, preferable circular, cross section.

49. (Previously Presented) A body according to claim 44 wherein the tube has a rectangular cross section.

50. (Original) A body according to claim 49 wherein the tube has a square cross section.

51. (Previously Presented) A body according to claim 44 wherein the tube has a triangular cross section.

52. (Previously Presented) A body according to claim 44 wherein one or both ends of the tube are substantially conical.

53. (Previously Presented) A body according to claim 44 wherein the or each fin is pivotable relative to the tube to restrict movement of the body through water in one direction more than in another direction.

54. (Previously Presented) A stabilizing apparatus comprising a body according to claim 44.

55. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing motion of a water-borne vessel comprising:

suspending at least two at least partially hollow bodies each comprising at least one closable ballast tank below the water-line vessel from substantially opposite sides of the vessel.

56. (Original) A method according to claim 55 further comprising ballasting each body.

57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 55, in which the vessel is according to claim 1.

58. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body comprising at least one closed or closable space; and

elongate flexible suspending means for suspending the or each body from below the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel, the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suspended from substantially opposite sides of the vessel.

59. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body with a volume of more than 50m^3 , the hollow body comprising at least one closable ballast tank; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body from the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel, the suspending means being capable of bearing tension loads of more than one hundred times the loads it is capable of bearing in compression,

the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suspended from substantially opposite sides of the vessel,

the vessel further comprising one or more saddles for attaching to the vessel, to support the suspending means.

60. (Previously Presented) A vessel as claimed in claim 59, wherein each body is substantially prism shaped.

61. (Currently Amended) A vessel as claimed in claim 59, wherein each body has a round, ~~preferably circular,~~ cross section.

62. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing motion of a water-borne vessel comprising:

suspending at least two at least partially hollow bodies below the vessel such that the hollow bodies are fully submerged below the waterline of the vessel, the hollow bodies comprising at least one closed or closable space below the water line from substantially opposite sides of the vessel.

63. (New) A vessel as claimed in claim 59, wherein each body has a circular cross section.